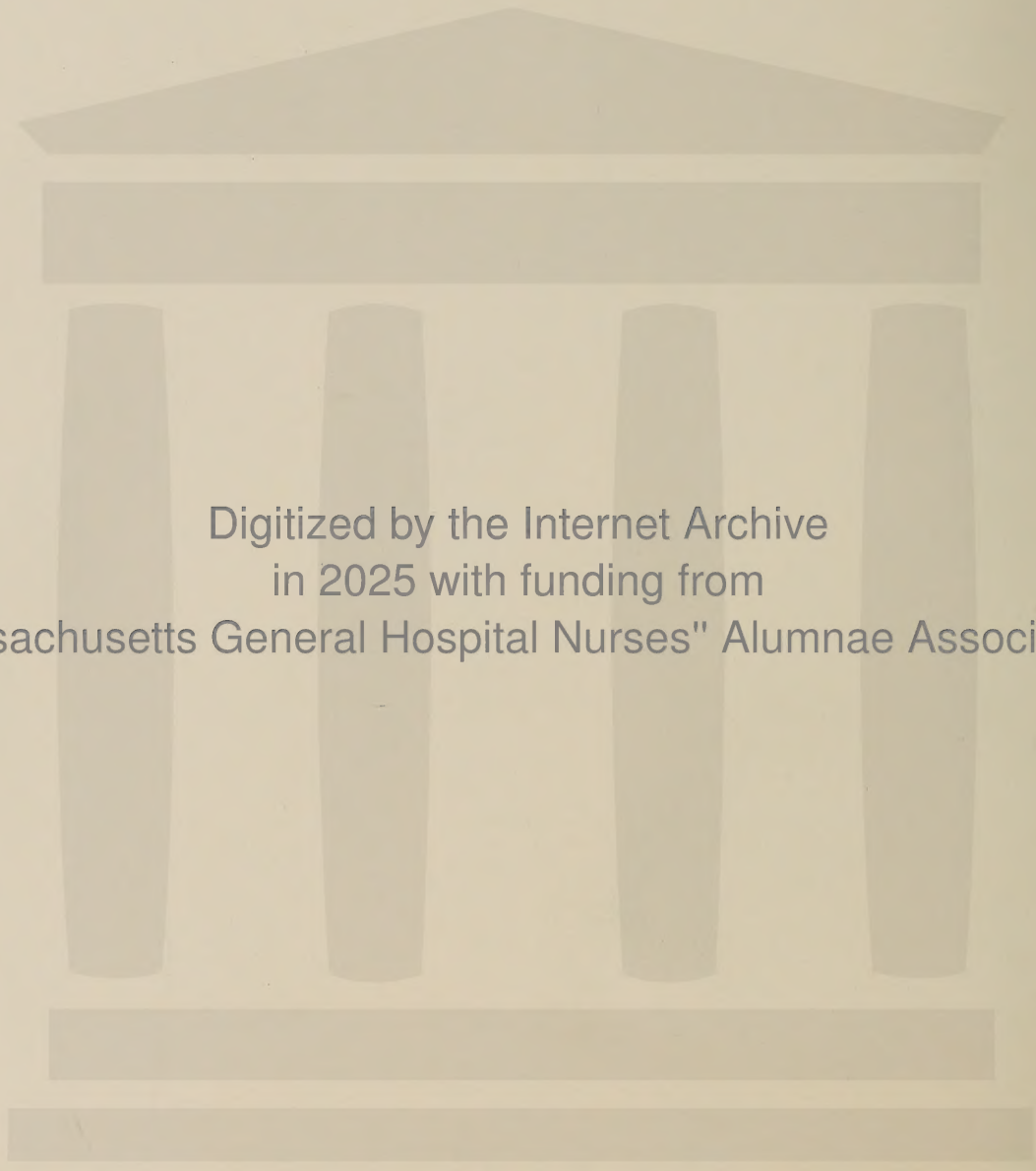
1-91: 1D10-12a / Superintendent of Nurses

1 School of Nursing

1D10 Sara Parsons - 1910-1920

1D10-12 - Correspondence

a- Letters from Parsons



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1-92: 1D10-12b

SP Corresp. from France, 1910-1920 ≥4 pcs

1-93: 1D10-12c

Corresp to SP 1915-1921 22 pcs

THE SHEPPARD AND ENOCH PRATT
HOSPITAL
TOWSON, P. O. MARYLAND
EDWARD N. BRUSH, M.D.
SUPERINTENDENT.

August 4, 1905.

My dear Miss Hollins:-

I am sorry to trouble you again with my paper but I am very proud of being a M. G. H. nurse originally. I took the two years course - graduated Sept. 1, 1903 and staid as head nurse in Ward A. one year before going to Mc Lean - I was at Mc Lean two years (one year as Supervisor) then went to Butler Hospital, Providence where we organized a School - Was there two years and then did various things - hospital ship, private nursing, trip abroad, a little State hospital experience before going to the Adams Nervine in Sept. 1903.

I left there August 17, 1903 and went abroad for a year - Entered Teachers college last fall. and came here July 17th. (1905).

I was Supt of Nurses at Butler and at the Nervine -

Here I am Supt. of the School for Nurses which we are to open October 1st.

This is a private hospital for the Insane - We have made arrangements with the

Post-Graduate Hospital, N.Y. to take our graduates for the last two of their three years course and that will give them Medical, Surgical, childrens and obstetrical nursing.

I am very happy that we were able to make such a compact.

When our circulars are out I will send you one. Everything seems quite favorable for good work here. I am in charge of the men nurses as well as the women. We present have 34 nurses and expect to increase the number as soon as possible.

The problems to be solved are difficult but very interesting.

Thanking you for your kindness and kindness, I am,

Faithfully yours-

Sara E. Parsons.

My dear Mrs. Thayer:-

May I take enough of your time to tell you how I feel about the social life of our nurses, graduates and undergraduates with the purpose of getting your opinion.

Now that we have a house I am anxious that it should be as much of a home as possible and that our young women should have a reasonable amount of normal, social intercourse with their women and men friends - The lack of that in our school has been one of the reasons I believe why our school has not been able to attract as many well-born and cultivated young women as has the Johns Hopkins School. When I was in Baltimore (for three and one half years) I pondered much on this problem, and had to admit reluctantly that the school had for some petty reason

~~so much more advanced for some~~ been able to attract under a non-payment and a tuition system, a very superior class of women - For practical ability, I could not see that they surpassed our nurses but for education and cultivation they were decided ly ahead. Many of their nurses are women of independent means who can afford to go into philanthropic or pioneer kinds of work - They can contribute generously to charitable & educational affairs and many of them are women of considerable influence - One graduate, a daughter of one of the trustees, gave $20,000. to their home. ~~While the same methods cannot be applied to that type of nurse~~ The advantage of having such women in a hospital is sufficient to make me feel that the Hopkins methods are worth studying and adopting when they are more effective than ours -

I think the ~~our~~ Educational advantages during Miss Noll's superintendency with our preliminary and special service courses have put our school ahead + in some ways ahead of their school and I think the larger number of superior applicants is in response to that improvement. Giving more off duty time has been another advantage but we cannot yet give our nurses what they would get at Johns Hopkins until we change our non-social customs. The social atmosphere there between all the hospital people, staff, administrative, medical and nursing, compared to ours, is as a spring day compared to a Boston east wind; therefore, it is a more congenial place in which to work hard for three years. About the only difference between their customs and ours is that with practically the same rules as regards ward duty and hospital etiquette at Johns Hopkins, there is a different set of

people meet about twice a year on a social basis at an informal dance - the graduates give one at graduation time and the doctors give another in the winter.

Knowing our conservative customs I have only dared hope that when we had our new home the graduates could have an occasional dancing party under suitable chaperonage, inviting their outside men friends, and the graduate medical assistants in the hospital; also that the pupils could have a yearly party, inviting outside relatives & friends. Only Mr. Washburn has said that he will think about it, but I can see he is afraid of the idea. I know Mr. Washburn wants only what is good for the hospital and I do not want to seem to force upon him any concession that he or those who are responsible for the hospital disapprove of but

right or wrong, after years of observation of different hospitals and schools; as a pupil nurse and an executive, I can not but conclude that our attitude has been too conservative in this respect. It would take me too long to tate all my reasons for coming to this conclusion, but the most important in my estimation, are that our attitude implies a certain lack of confidence in the social discretion of our people - I feel it strongly by contrast with other places; and the other is, that at the Johns Hopkins and the N.Y. Presbyterian where a more liberal policy has always been carried out, their nurses not only rank as high as ours professionally but the schools the younger are more favorably known than ours.

The Peter Bent Brigham hospital by request of the doctors themselves has taken the Johns Hopkins social standard -

intelligent.

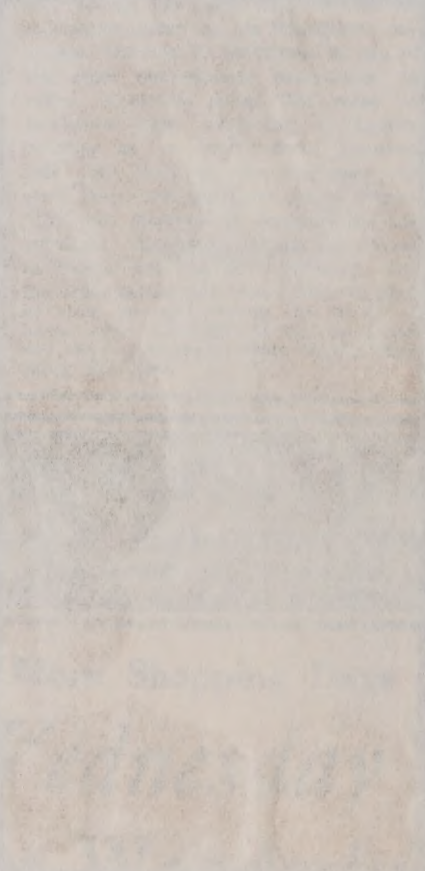
I feel sure that Candidates when seeking a school, other things being Equal, will go to the place that in addition to good Professional training, gives a normal, genial social life - For this reason I feel that the stand we take, now that we have a place where the nurses can entertain, is very important to the future welfare of the school. With our growing demands on the nursing staff I don't think we can afford to ignore one single legitimate attraction which may be offered. I have told Mr. Washburn this and as President of our Committee and a most generous benefactor of our school I am anxious to know whether you think me reasonable or otherwise

I have been too loyal to my school to make the comparisons or decide this - I have stated frankly in this letter

Faithfully yours,

BOSTON NURSES

For half a century, lacking a single year, the Boston training school for nurses, attached to the Massachusetts General Hospital, has been engaged in a work of immeasurable importance to this community and to the world at large. It is very fitting that the approaching semi-centenary should be marked by a volume giving the history of that work. Sarah E. Parsons supplies it in "The History of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses," which has just been published by Whitcomb & Barrows of this city. The school is one of the oldest and one of the largest in its field. Its hundreds of graduates are today in every land under the sun. Miss Barrows, a graduate and former superintendent, has done her work with loving thoroughness, and the book is not only a invaluable contribution to the medical history of America, but it will be an inspiration to all the young women connected with the school in the future. The school had its troubles at first, and had no fewer than three heads in succession during its first two years—Mrs. Billings, a nurse with army hospital experience; Baroness von Olnhousen, who had seen service in the Franco-Prussian war; and Linda Richards, America's first trained nurse, who had graduated from the New England Hospital for Women and Children in 1872. The story of those early years is told in detail. Much space is given to the war record and at the end there are chronological tables and lists of directors, lecturers, curriculum, tables, etc. The volume is generously illustrated.



Massachusetts General Hospital

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN,
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

Boston Oct. 28, 1912.

My dear Dr. Washburn;

The present system of giving a preliminary course to the nurses and paying an allowance of six dollars ($6.00) a month is, in my opinion, an unnecessary and unjustifiable expense to the Hospital in all cases where the pupil does not finish her probationary period or her training.

During the first three months, the probationer is of almost no use on the Wards, and when she leaves during this time, the expense to the Hospital, for her board, lodging and laundry, and for her instruction, is a dead loss.

The type of nurse who usually leaves within the first year is also more of an expense to the Hospital than the others. For this reason, I recommend a revision of our present system.

As at present arranged, the Hospital pays to the pupil an allowance of six dollars a month, beginning at the time she is allowed to go into uniform. It amounts to $198.00 per pupil during the three years. The pupil pays in advance for her textbooks and uniforms. On entrance, she pays $8.50 for her textbooks. When accepted for the School, she pays $28.00 for the School uniform and she is supposed to keep herself supplied with uniforms out of the allowance that is given her during the rest of the year. I estimate that the sum total the pupil usually pays back to the Hospital, for uniforms and textbooks, would not be more than $64.00

I recommend that the probationer be required to deposit $40.00 on entrance to the School; that if she leaves within the month after entrance a reasonable charge for board, lodging and laundry be deducted from her deposit, and the rest of the money refunded. If she stays longer than that, her instruction plus living expenses should be considered more than an equivalent for the deposit.

Massachusetts General Hospital

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN,
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

Boston Oct.28, 1912

I recommend, as a substitute for the six dollars allowance now given the pupil monthly, that the Hospital furnish the textbooks and uniforms throughout the course; and that the Hospital refund to the pupil her forty dollars deposit and give her the School pin at time of graduation. That would mean that, whereas the Hospital now spends $198.00 on the nurse, it would, by furnishing the uniforms and textbooks, give an equivalent of $64.00 plus the expense of the pin ($6.50), which makes $70.50. The difference between $198.00 per pupil and $70.50 leaves a balance of $127.50, in favor of the Hospital.

I should recommend a certain number of scholarships to be available at the end of the first and second years, of $50.00 each, to be given for all-round excellence in Training School work.

I recommend that all pupils accepted after January first enter under the new arrangement.

For the McLean Nurses, I should recommend an arrangement on the same basis: Two months' probationary course, a deposit of $20.00, and a refund, at the end of the course, of the $20.00, and a present of the School pin.

Faithfully yours,

SEP/G.

Superintendent of Nurses

Massachusetts General Hospital

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN,
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

Boston Nov. 15, 91 2.

Mr. John A. Blanchard, Secretary,
262 Washington St.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Blanchard:-

I wish to renew my recommendation to the Trustees that the Training School for Nurses be placed upon a non-payment basis. The Superintendent of Nurses and I agree on this and it is the unanimous opinion of the Advisory Committee of the Training School.

We believe that it will place the School upon a higher plane. The best training schools in the country, (the Presbyterian Hospital, New York and the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore) aside from our own, have adopted this system. It places the work upon an educational rather than a money basis. We are now giving our nurses enough so that we should not pay them any money.

I would recommend that a pupil coming to the School on probation be required to deposit $40.; that if she leaves within the month after entrance, a reasonable charge for board, lodging and laundry be deducted from her deposit and the rest of the money refunded. If, for any reason, she is dropped from the School after the expiration of her month, the $40. should be forfeited to the hospital as the instruction and living expenses would be more than an equivalent for this sum of money.

Massachusetts General Hospital

Boston Nov.15,1912.

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN,
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

Under this system, the hospital should furnish text books and uniforms throughout the course and at the time of graduation refund to the pupil her $40. deposit and give her the school pin. Graduates of the McLean Hospital, who take the eighteen months course with us, should be placed on a similar basis; with a deposit of $20. and a refund at graduation of $20. and a present of the school pin. The school pin costs $6.50.

I should not recommend this scheme to the Trustees if I thought that it would injure the School in any way, but I feel that it will be ultimately to the benefit of the school. Incidentally, it has the advantage of placing the Training School pupils upon an educational basis where it would not be necessary to insure them under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and would result in a saving to the hospital of $2,000.

Very respectfully,

F. A. Washburn

Resident Physician.

The Industrial Accident Commission has assumed the right of approving hospital board bills. The Act gives them no such authority as their approval is limited to attorneys' and physicians' bills.

It has not seemed wise to me to go any further than to mention this to them.

Massachusetts General Hospital

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN,
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

Boston Jan. 30, 1914.

Miss Pauline L. Dolliver,
54 E 34 Street,
New York City.

My dear Miss Dolliver,

The plates are not on the pictures and I will not do anything about as long as you had planned to have them put on.

We do not want you to have any expense connected with your picture but we are anxious to have a good likeness as you are now, because your pupils will remember you as you are now. I like the profile picture that Miss McCrae had and I ordered an enlargement of it two years ago to give to the head nurses' sitting-room for a Christmas present but when Christmas came the picture was simply a reproduction and while they all liked it very much I don't feel that it is large enough to be what we want for all time.

I think it is very nice that we have Miss Richards and Miss Maxwell.

Our reception to Miss Tippet and to the graduating class was very successful. A number of the old graduates came whom I had never seen before. I trust that our new home is going to be an attraction that will make our social attempts more successful than they have previously been.

Faithfuly yours,

Sara E. Parsons

SEP/H

Supt. of Nurses.

Sec Parsons - Endowment

425

Massachusetts General Hospital.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL
BOSTON
THE McLEAN HOSPITAL
WAVERLEY
THE CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL
WAVERLEY

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN, M. D.
ADMINISTRATOR
JOSEPH B. HOWLAND, M. D.
ASS'T ADMINISTRATOR

Boston Oct. 26, 1914.

Dear Dr. Washburn:

Some of the graduates are interested in raising an endowment for the Training School. It is a pretty ambitious project, but one I think that should appeal to everyone, who is interested in the work of the hospital. I know one nurse who would pledge from three to five hundred dollars, another one who is ready to give a hundred and others who, I think, would be glad to contribute smaller amounts. Do you think the trustees would accept such a sum as the graduates might be able to raise and start it as an endowment. I think if we could make a start that it would grow, and that some people who would not contribute for other purposes might contribute to that. If we could get enough so as to relieve the hospital of all expenses for instructors, surely it would be a good thing. Don't you think so?

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

Sara E. Parsons.

Supt. of Nurses.

Oct. 26. 14.

Dear Dr. Washburn:

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Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

Supt. of Nurses.

Massachusetts General Hospital

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN,
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

Boston Aug. 27, 1915.

Dear Dr. Washburn:-

I wish to recommend that there be a definite ruling concerning the examinations. I wish it might be an established rule that a nurse who fails more than twice in any subject or subjects should be automatically dropped from the school, unless there are extenuating circumstances like unavoidable absence from several of the classes or such a high standard in certain subjects and in practical work and personal qualifications that brings the nurses average so high that a special dispensation should be granted, by which that nurse may, by special study or repeating the course, be allowed to make up her deficiencies.

Respectfully submitted,

Supt. of Nurses.

(S. E. Parsons)

Massachusetts General Hospital

Boston Dec. 7, 191 5.

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN,
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

Dear Dr. Washburn:-

Will you please consider the following recommendations concerning the orderlies?

I suggest that we continue the two years' course for training orderlies, but that we give a more thorough elementary theoretical course during the first year than is given at present. I will map out such a course before next spring. In the second year I would recommend a more advanced course that will consist of lectures on medical, surgical and genito-urinary diseases with an elementary course in therapeutics. This advanced course I would offer to all the men who have shown sufficient interest and who have sufficient education to take advantage of it, and during the second year I should like to be permitted to teach these men how to administer medicines. I recommend that those who are able to complete this course should go to McLean Hospital for a year's post graduate work.

Dr. Tuttle offers Anatomy and Physiology, 24 hours; food, dietetics and practical work, 24 hours; Materia Medica, 20 hours; English literature and art, 24 hours; psychology and mental diseases, 24 hours. To that could be added massage, 12 hours, and hydrotherapeutics, six hours. That is a splendid course and ought to attract all the best men.

In turn, I think we could offer McLean and Butler Hospital graduates the senior year's work, including, as I said before, lectures on the care of medical, surgical and genito-urinary diseases with a course in therapeutics. I think we could utilize our second year men and our post graduates for a good deal of specialling, where they would get real nursing experience under close supervision.

As for remuneration, I think the post graduates, who come to us, should receive the same remuneration that our second year men get and Dr. Tuttle says that our men who go there would receive the same.

Massachusetts General Hospital

Boston Dec. 7, 1915.

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN,
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

Dr. Washburn - 2.

For practical work, I would offer the post graduates three months on the medical ward, five months' general, surgical and genito-urinary work, three months and a half Out-Patient or Accident Room experience and a two weeks' vacation.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara E. Parsons

Superintendent of Nurses.

Massachusetts General Hospital

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN,
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

Boston Dec. 18, 1915.

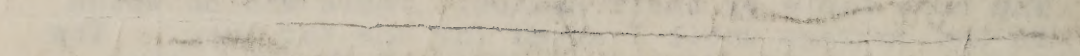
Dear Dr. Howland:-

Following are recommendations which I should like to make to alleviate the dining room conditions for the orderlies, as I observed them Thursday, the 16th:-

About ten orderlies and three office boys went to luncheon at twelve o'clock. They had one cup each, which they could use for soup, water or tea. Most of the men had their bread and potato skins on the bare table by their plates. There was no spoon in the cabbage until I asked for one for them. The table was wiped off with a dirty cloth after they finished and the butter which they had left in their butter chips was scraped up together and put back on the table for the second luncheon. I saw one of the Greeks take some in his hands and put it in the dishes and at half past twelve the rest of the men came in and the same conditions prevailed, except a few more saucers were put on the table and three or four of the men had saucers in which they could put their bread and potato skins.

There is insufficient time, apparently, to set up the table properly and there isn't room enough for the orderlies and office boys to have a table for themselves. There is occasionally one or two of the housecleaners at their table or one or two of the orderlies have to sit over at the other table where the housecleaners and Out-Patient Department boys sit.

To relieve this congestion, I suggest that the two tables in the nurses' dining room without table cloths, which are nearest the serving room door, be set up for this group of men who go up at twelve o'clock, and that one of the maids be allowed to wait on them. That will make it possible for those who go at half past twelve to have a clean table by themselves in their regular dining room with clean chairs to sit in.



Massachusetts General Hospital

Boston Dec. 18, 1915.

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN,
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

I should be glad if you would let them have glasses for water and a sufficient number of cups and saucers for tea, if they wish it, and bowls for soup instead of cups, two spoons when there is a spoon desert and napkins with wooden clips, that shall be changed twice a week.

From my own experience in the hospital when the nurses had supper instead of dinner at night, I would like to suggest that either a nourishing soup, a stew, hash, minced meat on toast or some heartier dish be added to the supper. The nurses when they had the cold supper always were hungry by the time they got off duty and I can easily believe that the men are hungry and dissatisfied if they do not get anything besides bread, butter and apple sauce, which you say is all they are supposed to have.

I am willing to vouch for their behavior if they can have fairly good service. I would recommend that the bread be cut in halves and enough put on the table to start with, so that there would be an allowance of two or three slices to a man. Some of the men made their entire luncheon out of bread and butter and two or three cups of soup.

I will talk to them about their table manners, if they have a better opportunity to observe them.

Faithfully yours,

Ellen E. Parsons

Supt. of Nurses.

Massachusetts General Hospital

Boston June 12, 1916.

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

Dr. Richard C. Cabot,

1 Marlboro Street,

Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Cabot:-

I should like to make acknowledgment in the front part of my book of my great indebtedness to you and to Miss Hall for your kind suggestions and encouragement while I have been compiling my material. I hope you haven't any objection. Miss Hall is reluctant about letting me use her name, but her work has been very helpful, going patiently over the material and making good suggestions that I have been glad to accept. I think, too, it pleases her to have helped.

Faithfully yours,

Ida E. Parsons

Supt. of Nurses.

Dec - Lighted

June 15, 1906.

Dr. Richard C. Cabot,

1 Marlboro Street,

Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Cabot:-

I should like to make acknowledgment in the front part of my book of my great indebtedness to you and to Miss Hall for your kind suggestions and encouragement while I have been covering the material. I hope you haven't any objection. Miss Hall is reluctant about letting me use her name, but her work has been very helpful, going patiently over the material and making good suggestions that I have been glad to accept. I think, too, it pleases her to have helped.

Faithfully yours,

Supt. of Nurses.

Hotel Kupper,
Kansas City, Missouri.
January 27, 1921.

Miss Louise Loring,
Prides Crossing, Mass.

Dear Miss Loring:-

I am sending you a copy of the Johns Hopkins Alumnae Endowment magazine which contains very interesting material not only relative to the reasons why Johns Hopkins school for nurses should be endowed, but why all schools that hope to survive should be endowed or provided for in some adequate way.

I often think gratefully of your encouraging interest in our school and although my hope for its ultimate welfare has often waned under the apparent indifference of the trustees added to their financial inability to provide suitably for the welfare of the school, I still cling to a belief that if the work of our hospital and of the school, which is such an important part of it, deserves to prosper, the way will yet open. Rightly or wrongly, at the present moment I feel as if I would hold on loyally for two more years and then if there has been no provision made for the support and permanent organization of the school as such, I shall cease to work for it. My reasons are the following.

Since I have been away from the school and have gotten a perspective I see plainly that it is wrong to encourage a young woman of good capabilities to go to any kind of a school and spend two or three years where there is an unstable organization. If the policy of the school can be entirely changed by a change of administration possibly depending upon the influence and opinion of one individual, such student runs a very great risk of making a bad investment of her time and labor. Even if she finished her training under a satisfactory regime, such change of administration in the future might, as most training schools for nurses are now organized, make her diploma of little or no value, thus taking away from her the prestege and a satisfaction that belongs to her as a matter of right.

I have just finished my survey of the schools in Missouri. The only school that I have found that rests upon a sound basis to which, for reasons before mentioned, I would be willing to recommend for perspective candidate is the Missouri University school for nurses. That, although small, is on a solid foundation. The students matriculate into the College of Liberal Arts. During all the shortage of student nurses of the past few years the University has provided the necessary help and support for the hospital activities so as not to encroach upon the rights of the student nurses as students. In other words, the students have not been exploited. They maintain their university educational requirements and would not contemplate a lengthening of the working hours, withdrawals of affiliations which have been promised students, or other retrogressive steps such as have quite generally been taken in many other schools in the state that are supposed to have a good reputation and to offer good courses.

I have met so many nurses who have said "My school used to be the best in the State." In one instance it is especially tragic because some years ago one of the schools was unusually good for the State of Missouri. It attracted a fine class of women who are doing fine work. But at the present time the hospital has passed into commercial hands and is such a disgrace to the profession that no graduates of it can conscientiously recommend her friends to train there. They even feel in doubt whether they ought to accept recent graduates into the alumnae society knowing what the educational and moral conditions are at the present time - perhaps I should say <u>immoral</u> conditions.

In many of the schools I have visited I have found among an undesirable number of students always a few very fine young women who are practically wasting three precious years of their lives dimly realizing, if at all, that they are not getting instruction, supervision, or adequate preparation for their future work. They will not know just how much they have lost until they are given the diploma, which will be practically worthless and they find themselves later unable to meet the demands that will be made upon them, perhaps ineligible for state registration, and certainly greatly handicapped in comparison with nurses who have been well trained.

I have found one of my own students in Kansas City, with whom I shall lunch today where I shall also meet a former house officer. That is one of the delightful things about being a graduate of the Massachusetts General, that there is scarcely a place one can go where one does not meet friends and I think you can understand how I have felt this past year, knowing what the school has meant to the world, as I have watched it at a standstill in its development owing to lack of funds and in this day to be at a standstill is to go backward. We have, I believe, had only one college graduate among our probationers in the last three classes, whereas we were having at least from six to ten a year. Moreover our students are so keen and well informed that they know exactly what ought to be done and are patiently waiting to see the needed improvement in our system.

The students themselves are working like beavers for the endowment and for the hospital. The graduating class is adding to the furnishing of one of the recreation rooms to make the place more attractive for those to follow them. At a bazaar held recently a thousand dollars was cleared for our fund, which now amounts to something over ten thousand raised almost entirely by the nurses themselves.

I am sorry to say that some of the doctors would be quite willing to see our educational standards lowered, for they are not much in sympathy with any of the nurse activities except private duty nurses and they criticize our school because more of our graduates do not go into that field. If they could only see, as I can, the pitiful need all over the country for women capable of taking executive teaching and public health positions they would be proud that our school is now a source to which the whole country turns with trust and confidence in our ability to give them someone fitted to lead other institutions out of their difficulties.

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I hope I have not tired you and I hope I have done no injustice to the management of our hospital. I certainly desire to be just and to put the best interpretation possible on decisions that are made by a body of men that I know earnestly desire the best for their institutions. The fact that at present the policy with the nursing department is retrogressive instead of progressive is I know not due to intention but do to ignorance of this particular problem and proves to me at least that the management of the school should be vested in a more representative council than is now the case, a council that understands education - and nursing education in particular, and a council backed up with sufficient funds devoted exclusively to the department that means so much to the hospital, the patients, and to nursing and health work at large.

I hope you and your sister are keeping well this winter and that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you when I come east next spring. I am helping the nurses down here work for a good bill and then I am to go to Oklahoma and Arkansas to survey their nursing schools.

Believe me, always gratefully and faithfully yours,

Sara E. Parsons-B

Source: Copy of letter to Miss Louise Loring from Sara E. Parsons - date, January 27, 1921. Re: Needs of M.G.H. School of Nursing for sound council and sound financing.

File #

Miss Louise Loring.....2

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Sara E. Parsons-D

Source: Copy of letter to Miss Louise Loring from Sara E. Parsons - date, January 27, 1921. Re: Needs of M.S.H. School of Nursing for sound council and sound financing.

File #

Hotel Kupper,
Kansas City, Missouri.
January 27, 1921.

Miss Louise Loring,
Prides Crossing, Mass.

Dear Miss Loring:-

I am sending you a copy of the Johns Hopkins Alumnae Endowment magazine which contains very interesting material not only relative to the reasons why Johns Hopkins school for nurses should be endowed, but why all schools that hope to survive should be endowed or provided for in some adequate way.

I often think gratefully of your encouraging interest in our school and although my hope for its ultimate welfare has often waned under the apparent indifference of the trustees added to their financial inability to provide suitably for the welfare of the school, I still cling to a belief that if the work of our hospital and of the school, which is such an important part of it, deserves to prosper, the way will yet open. Rightly or wrongly, at the present moment I feel as if I would hold on loyally for two more years and then if there has been no provision made for the support and permanent organization of the school as such, I shall cease to work for it. My reasons are the following.

Since I have been away from the school and have gotten a perspective I see plainly that it is wrong to encourage a young woman of good capabilities to go to any kind of a school and spend two or three years where there is an unstable organization. If the policy of the school can be entirely changed by a change of administration possibly depending upon the influence and opinion of one individual, such student runs a very great risk of making a bad investment of her time and labor. Even if she finished her training under a satisfactory regime, such change of administration in the future might, as most training schools for nurses are now organized, make her diploma of little or no value, thus taking away from her the prestege and a satisfaction that belongs to her as a matter of right.

I have just finished my survey of the schools in Missouri. The only school that I have found that rests upon a sound basis to which, for reasons before mentioned, I would be willing to recommend for perspective candidate is the Missouri University school for nurses. That, although small, is on a solid foundation. The students matriculate into the College of Liberal Arts. During all the shortage of student nurses of the past few years the University has provided the necessary help and support for the hospital activities so as not to encroach upon the rights of the student nurses as students. In other words, the students have not been exploited. They maintain their university educational requirements and would not contemplate a lengthening of the working hours, withdrawals of affiliations which have been promised students, or other retrogressive steps such as have quite generally been taken in many other schools in the state that are supposed to have a good reputation and to offer good courses.

I have met so many nurses who have said "My school used to be the best in the State." In one instance it is especially tragic because some years ago one of the schools was unusually good for the State of Missouri. It attracted a fine class of women who are doing fine work. But at the present time the hospital has passed into commercial hands and is such a disgrace to the profession that no graduates of it can conscientiously recommend her friends to train there. They even feel in doubt whether they ought to accept recent graduates into the alumnae society knowing what the educational and moral conditions are at the present time - perhaps I should say immoral conditions.

In many of the schools I have visited I have found among an undesirable number of students always a few very fine young women who are practically wasting three precious years of their lives dimly realizing, if at all, that they are not getting instruction, supervision, or adequate preparation for their future work. They will not know just how much they have lost until they are given the diploma, which will be practically worthless and they find themselves later unable to meet the demands that will be made upon them, perhaps ineligible for state registration, and certainly greatly handicapped in comparison with nurses who have been well trained.

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Sara E. Parsons-B

Source: Copy of letter to Miss Louise Loring from Sara E. Parsons - date, January 27, 1921. Re: Needs of M.G.H. School of Nursing for sound council and sound financing.

File #

Miss Louise Loring.....#3

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File #

Hold — Read last half if you have not already done so. I think Lord Parsons lifted letter herself.

B

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January 27, 1921.

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Sara E. Parsons-B

Massachusetts General Hospital

Boston Jan. 30, 1922

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES
SALLY JOHNSON, R. N. SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. John Finley,
c/o New York Times,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I am writing a history of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses, and I should like to have the privilege of using your poem which was written for the one hundredth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. If you will permit this I shall be very grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Sara E. Parsons

P/K

H.M.K.

Permission is most gladly given

John Finley

n.d. after 1937

MISS SARA E. PARSONS
301 SOUTH HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Miss Shepard:

You will see that my N. E. H. staff gave me Cook's Life of Florence Nightingale in 1913. I read it a great deal and think it is a fascinating and inspiring work. I should like to have you accept it, as your own property.

The 2nd vol. of Nutting & Black has an interesting letter from Miss N. pasted into it.

These books also I should be glad for you to have for your dear library if you care for them.

In Vol. I of the History I found a letter from Miss Mack pasted in which I think adds to the interest of the books.

The clipping I found in Vol. II I see it must be quite old, & wonder if the writer is Lord Lothian, now Ambassador in Washington from England. I think it is he.

"A Mind that Found Itself" is a splendid story of mental illness. Students who choose the Nurse Training Should find it interesting—

Cordially yours,
Sara E. Palmer

The Wide Horizon

Diary of a Political Pilgrim

By The Marquess of Lothian

IN THE AIR

IN THE old days the journey across India was immensely slow and laborious. Today we jump from Karachi to Calcutta in a day, passing half the ancient glories of India on the way.

Though India has been the home of many kingdoms and empires it has also always been saturated with religion. No people has ever been more acutely conscious of the illusory and transient nature of human life and experience nor more convinced that reality lies beyond the senses in the eternal. Only Europe, in the days of medieval Christianity, has approached the other-worldliness of India.

In its earliest forms, as recorded in the Vedas and the Gita, Hinduism was vigorous, cheerful and constructive. But as with most other religions, the weakness of human nature, priestcraft, and superstition gradually degraded it until it became a ritualistic and inactive fatalism, dominated by the Brahmin caste. From time to time movements of reform have redeemed it. Six centuries ago the invading hosts of militant Islam converted many Hindus to the Moslem religion, and gradually established the Mogul Raj over all but the southernmost part of the peninsula.

* * *

Then, as the Mogul Empire dissolved, came the British Raj, at first a purely governmental empire, concerned with the maintenance of law and order and of stable conditions for trade. It triumphed because India was divided and because the British brought with them the new technique and the new weapons evolved in a Europe set free by the Renaissance and the Reformation.

But in time, with British rule came also Western civilization. First came the Westernized man himself, and with him his literature and his press. Then followed schools and universities and the whole modern technique of natural scientific education.

Finally came the political ideals of liberty and democracy and more recently still the modern paganisms of Communism and Fascism.

So India also finds its two ancient religions, Hinduism and Islam, like the religions of Europe and the Far East, challenged by a modern materialist civilization, and in this civilization organized religion plays an ever less forceful part, for it is primarily concerned with the satisfaction of human needs and appetites in this world.

But India, under the influence of Mahatma Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, has put up a more vigorous and tenacious resistance to the onset of Western civilization than any other country in the world. Mr. Gandhi has steadily preached the view that Western civilization has gone off the rails and that what is wrong with it is not the teachings of natural science and the use of machinery but that mankind has foolishly fallen in love with the material power, possessions and comfort they can give and has therefore lost its hold on spirituality.

* * *

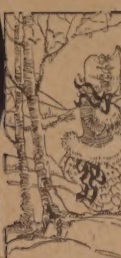
Mr. Gandhi is therefore trying to free Hinduism from priestcraft, superstition and fatalism and to give back to it something of the clean vigor and cheerful activity depicted in the old Sanskrit writings. In particular he has set his face against the industrial process which would suck the masses of the Indian village population into industrial slums.

In the struggle for Indian self-government, too, Mr. Gandhi has forged or elaborated a system of non-violent resistance to oppression and wrong, and of pressure for reform which is the very reverse of the dominant Western reliance on force as the instrument of policy. But now the Congress party has taken office in the provinces it is being confronted with a new problem. It is one thing to preach non-violent resistance to an alien government or to foreign aggression. But once a party assumes the responsibilities of government it becomes one of its primary duties to enforce the law and that often means that it must use force.

Today, moreover, a considerable proportion of the younger Hindus repudiate Mr. Gandhi's non-violent and anti-industrial philosophy and seek to convince India that its progress must follow Western lines. The Moslems, as a communal or religious group, are not non-violent by religion. Nor are the old feudal princedoms non-violent.

The future of Mr. Gandhi's resistance to Western civilization, therefore, is very uncertain. But it is significant, for it is the only mass movement today which deliberately challenges the first premises of Western civilization.

Sunbonnet Sue



Sometimes I think I never saw
Such deep, deep drifts of snow.
And then I sit and think about
The cheerful Esquimau.
L.M.

Parliamentary Practice

Parliamentarian's Vote

Question: If a parliamentarian is an active member of a group, is she entitled to vote on motions? Some of our members contend that a parliamentarian rules on questions in the same way that a judge makes decisions and is therefore not entitled to vote. Others hold that a parliamentarian does not rule on the desirability of the business before the group but merely on the proper parliamentary manner in which it should be handled, and therefore should not be deprived of the right as member to vote on motions.

Answer: A parliamentarian, if a member of the assembly in which he or she is serving, has all the privileges of membership, including the right to vote on all motions, unless the bylaws of the organization specify otherwise. If an organization establishes the office of parliamentarian in its bylaws and provides for the election of one of its own members to fill such office, the bylaws should also define the duties of the office. Otherwise, the general rule would apply that limits the function of the parliamentarian to advising the presiding officer on questions of parliamentary procedure.

A parliamentarian does not "rule" or make "decisions." Only the presiding officer may rule on a question, and his ruling is subject to appeal and possible reversal by the membership. The parliamentarian gives his opinion to the presiding officer, usually only when the presiding officer requests it. Opinions of the parliamentarian do not become "rulings" unless the chair makes them so, or unless the bylaws give them that effect.

A parliamentarian may feel it unwise to take part in the discussion of a motion, particularly if he may be called upon for a parliamentary opinion concerning it, but there is no general rule prohibiting him. In large assemblies, such as conventions, Robert recommends the selection of one who is not a delegate, therefore not a member of the assembly (Parliamentary Law, page 326).

Did ... Ever ...

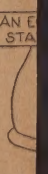
Why ... Mention ...

It is a cu... dogs, doves, ... mals are m... there is no... cats in the ...

There is ... among comm... Many have ... that the an... word for "cs... a possibility ... even referri... to the he... taskmasters.

Historians ... cats were fa... Egypt from ... indicated by ... ing back to ... unknown to ... lonians, and ... Romans, u... of Egypt.

There pro... ple to who... as much as ... Ancient pal... tian cats w... as dogs are ... and even to ... of the Nile ... different so... pet of toda...



ords left by ... cats plungi... in their ser...

The Egyp... their cats t... in their ear... round their ... to note th... cate that th... for "cat" ... "maou." So... "kitty mee... proximating ... Egyptian.

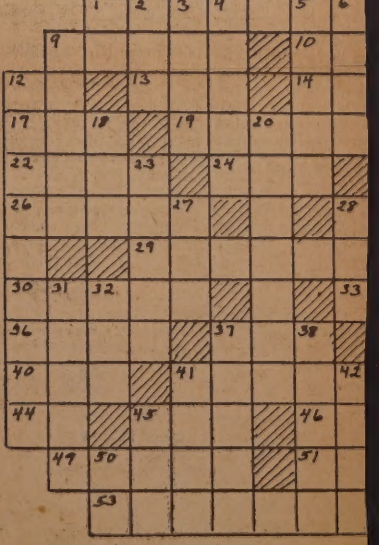
It was fo... domestic or... ply tamed ... pean wild ... tomical cons... indicate tha... North Afric... ticated by t... cat, as it is ... wild and ... in the Vall... mistakably ... ings of our ... day.—W. P...

Know...

The way ... the way t... chiefly on t... frugality.—T...

Daily Crossword

Prepared for The Christian Science Monitor



Across

1—Who was the most famous Egyptian Queen?
9—What is the space for playing tennis?
10—If you were a poet, how might you write "beneath"?
12—Church (abbr.).
13—In music, what is placed after a note to lengthen its length by one half?

1—What pre...
2—From wh... Minor su... ascended?
3—What aste...
4—What aqu... valuable ...

MISS SARA E. PARSONS
301 SOUTH HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

May 6,1943

Dear Dr.Washburn:

As I still receive The News,although I didn't feel I could afford to subscribe for it,I know it must be your interest that keeps my name on the mailing list and I thank you sincerely. I do enjoy it very much.Also Mrs.Burrell and Miss Whipple(1893)who is now a resident here.

I have a soldier correspondent in N.Africa,if he is still alive,who got my name from a book I contributed to the army libraries, which was written by Wilmarth Lewis who was a patient in the officers'ward in Base 6. On the strength of that the boy wrote and said he liked the story and asked me to write to him. He has written me a very interesting account of himself and I have also heard from Mr.Lewis,who is the author of several

very good books on 18th Century England.

My army grand-niece arrived March 8th and is a perfectly lovely baby and my namesake into the bargain which gave me a great thrill.

Dont bother to answer this for I know you are a very busy person, and gosh!! ain't hospital conditions awful?"

Faithfully yours and respectfully,

Sara E. Parsons

301 S. Huntington Ave.
Jamaica Plain, Mass.
January 1, 1947

Dear Miss Sleeper:

Your Christmas letter was a very happy thought and every alumna who was fortunate enough to get it must be thinking gratefully for what you have brought to the school.

I feel that 1947 will bring you much success in your work and appreciation from the clientele for what you are. So I wish you a Happy New Year and a minimum of problems-

Affectionately yours,
Sara E. Parsons

MISS SARA E. PARSONS
301 SOUTH HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JAN 28 1948

January 24, 1948

Dear Miss Sleeper:

I have just been rereading your very interesting Christmas greeting. I am sure every M. G. Hier that got one was grateful for the interest that prompted you to send it.

I personally want to thank you for what you are doing for the school and I hope and believe you will have the cooperation of all who are interested in the hospital—

Cordially yours,

Sara E. Parsons

1-91: ID10-12a / Superintendent of Nurses

1 School of Nursing